

Brescia University College
Family Studies 3325B
Diversity and the Canadian Family
January 2012 – April 2012
T 11:30-2:30

Professor: Dr. Lara Descartes
Phone: 432-8353 ext. 28059
Office hours: MT 10:45-11:30

Office: 124 St. James
Email: ldescart@uwo.ca

Course Description:

This half credit course offers a way for students to think through contemporary diversity as it impacts individuals and families. It utilizes a psychosocial approach to enable students to think through their own perspectives on race, ethnicity, religion, sexual identity, and more. This course focuses upon understanding families' strengths, the challenges faced by families in contemporary society, and efforts to support families and children.

Prerequisite:

FS2200E or FS2225E

Required Texts:

Adams, M. et al. (2010). *Readings on diversity and social justice, 2nd Ed.* New York: Routledge.

Evaluation and Grading:

Participation	10%
Quizzes	25%
Group presentation	20%
Term project	25%
Final exam	20%

Participation

This class relies heavily on your involved, informed participation. This includes: Informed participation (the kind that shows that you've done the readings) in class. Attendance. Attention. Lack of negative participation (inattention, disruption, not attending, regular late attendance, etc.).

Quizzes

These will be at the beginning of class, and are to ensure the readings are being completed. They will be short. If you miss one, you must make it up in the week it was given, or provide medical documentation. They must be made up in office hours, not in or after class.

Group presentation

You will be assigned to a group. Your group will research an area related to the week's readings, specifically in the Canadian context, but that is different than the actual reading. So you'll be spending 20 minutes presenting to the class about something related to our reading, but additional. More about this in class.

Term project

There will be a separate handout on this.

Final exam

Everything will be covered; all class materials, including videos, etc.

Course Policies:

No laptops, no phones, no electronic devices Class time is our time, free of texting, FB, etc.

Late Assignments The policies governing requests for accommodation for course components worth 10% or more of the course grade are outlined in the Academic Policies section at the end of the outline. Exams must be taken when specified unless there is academic accommodation, granted with documentation for medical and personal emergencies. Assignments must be handed in on the day they're due unless there is academic accommodation. Late assignments get 10 points off per day otherwise, where the day turns over at 4 pm. In other words, hand in your portfolio at 4:01 pm on the day it's due, and it's 10 points off. Just turn it in on time. ☺ Assignments not handed in in class must be handed in at the registrar.

A+ 90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A 80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B 70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C 60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D 50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F below 50	Fail

Course Etiquette When sending an email to me, put something in the subject line like "FS3325." Address email with something like "Dear Dr. Descartes" or "Hello Dr. Descartes." "Hey" isn't really a good opening line on a professional email. No opening line isn't good either. Sign your name to your email.

Most of you are mature adults and don't need the following reminders, but I've learned through the years that it's best to lay it all out. Come to class. Be on time for class. Don't leave class early. There are exceptions of course, but these should be rare, not standard. More reminders: in the classroom, when we're actually having class is not a good time to talk or whisper with your friends and classmates. Finally, please be respectful of each other and of me. Diverse opinions may be and should be expressed: If you read or hear something you don't agree with, talk about it, but try to separate that from going on the offensive or the defensive.

Final Note This syllabus may be amended by the professor if needed.

Course Calendar:

Date	Topic	Readings and assignments
Jan. 10	Course introduction, thinking about identity	
Jan. 17	Prejudice and discrimination	Q1, RDSJ 1,2,3,4
Jan. 24	Race and ethnicity	Q2, RDSJ 9,10,13,16 Group 1
Jan. 31	Race and ethnicity	Q3, RDSJ 18,19,20 Group 2
Feb. 7	Immigrants	Q4, Henry & Tator (2006) 74-86, to be posted on WebCT Group 3
Feb. 14	Religion	Q5, RDSJ 21,22,29, articles handed out in class Group 4
Feb. 28	Religion	Q6, Helly, D. (2004). "Are Muslims discriminated against in Canada since September 2001?" <i>Canadian Ethnic Studies</i> , 36, 24-47. Available through library website. Group 5
Mar. 6	Class	Q7, RDSJ 81, 82, 83, 85 Group 6
Mar. 13	Gender	Q8, RDSJ 32, 33, 34, 37, 44 Group 7
Mar. 20	Gender	Q9, RDSJ 36, 39, 40, 41 Group 8
Mar. 27	Sexual identity	Q10, 46, 48, 54, 57 Group 9
Apr. 3	Disability	Q11, RDSJ 61, 63, 64, 66, 67 Projects are due
Apr. 10	Social justice	Q12, RDSJ 88, 89, 91, 92 Group 10
Apr. XXX	Final exam, date TBD	Final exam

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. To download an SMC go to <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm> and follow the link under "Medical Documentation". Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations document-ation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html>.

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, www.registrar.uwo.ca, for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com.

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after

receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

7. SUPPORT SERVICES

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar_services/index.html.

The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.